

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 July 2016

**STATEMENT OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH INTEGRATION
PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLARE WOOD****Better Care Fund**

I am pleased to be able to report that the national escalation panel which I attended in London on the 7th June, along with Richard Flinton, Richard Webb and each of the CCG accountable officers, recognised the need to do more to support social care within the 2016/17 Better Care Fund plan. Whilst this represents a move in the right direction for social care, I do not underestimate how challenging this period has and continues to be for partners and for the health and care system as a whole. Nonetheless I am heartened by the commitment shown by system leaders to continue to work together, and I am equally committed through my role as chair of HWB to do all I can to support them as we work towards finalising the BCF plan for 2016/17.

Mindful Employer

The County Council has recently signed up to the national Mindful Employer Charter and is one of the first organisations in North Yorkshire to do so.

Signing the Charter represents a public declaration that the County Council is taking steps to improve the mental health and wellbeing of its employees and promote the recruitment and retention of people with mental health issues. It provides real opportunities for the County Council to lead by example. It has a number of advantages and benefits such as enhancing our reputation as a good employer, contributing towards our legislative duties, enhancing customer experience and contributing towards increased staff productivity and engagement.

The Charter itself is a set of aspirations, rather than targets and the focus is on working towards the principles, not the immediate fulfilment of them. Consequently, signing up represents the first stage on a developmental journey for organisations.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DoLS) & Law Commission

The repercussions of the Cheshire West Supreme Court judgment continue to have implications for both North Yorkshire and other local authorities. The judgment significantly widened the criteria for DoLS assessments with the result that most authorities have had to implement a prioritisation system. In North Yorkshire this is based on the guidance developed by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

The Law Commission has undertaken a review of the current position nationally and a draft report is expected by the end of the year. In order to offer reassurance the Directorate continues to benchmark its position both regionally and nationally and has carried out a self-assessment against standards recommended by the Local Government Association and ADASS. The findings from the latter are being addressed both in the Directorate and its partners via the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Finally four local authorities have initiated judicial review proceedings against the Government in respect of the costs involved in managing the processes. North Yorkshire will continue to monitor this development.

Coffee Cart First Anniversary

I was honoured to join trainees and staff to mark the first anniversary of the Creative Coffee Cart here at County Hall, which is a joint venture between the voluntary sector (Creative Support) and the County Council, providing work opportunities for people with disabilities. I hope Members will continue to support this venture – and also the local coffee roasters from East Rounton who provide the coffee!

Dementia and Carer Awareness

I was delighted to support recent events to raise awareness about carers support and about dementia. It was a pleasure to attend the regular Sporting Memories group at Northallerton library and, as this statement is published, a 'Living well with Dementia in Knaresborough' event is taking place on Thursday 14 July at Gracious Street Church, Knaresborough. This event, for people with dementia, their carers and local businesses and health and social care services, aims to make Knaresborough a more dementia-friendly community and builds on similar initiatives taking place in Harrogate, Northallerton, Scarborough and elsewhere across the County.

Anne Marie Lubanski

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anne Marie for her work with North Yorkshire County Council over the past eight years, including four years as an Assistant Director. Anne Marie has earned a well-deserved promotion to become Strategic Director for Adult Care and Housing with Rotherham Council. Pending external recruitment, Ian Spicer will cover the locality social care teams in addition to his mental health service responsibilities and Dale Owens will cover provider services, Living Well and his existing remit for extra care. In the meantime, I am sure you will join me in wishing Anne Marie all the very best.

Clare Wood